



PRESS RELEASE

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Pennsylvania's September Yield Forecast

HARRISBURG, PA, Sept 15, 2006 - - Based on crop conditions as of September 1, estimates of Pennsylvania's 2006 production of corn for grain, soybeans, and Burley tobacco is expected to be higher according to the Pennsylvania field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

The corn for grain yield is estimated at 135 bushels per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast, but up 13 bushels from last year's average yield of 122 bushels per acre. With acreage for harvest currently estimated at 940,000, the resulting production is expected to be 126.9 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago.

The soybean yield is estimated at 40 bushels per acre, down two bushels from the August 1 forecast, and down 1 bushel from last year's yield of 41 bushels per acre. With acreage for harvest currently estimated at 450,000, the resulting production is expected to be 18.0 million bushels, up 4.5 percent from last year.

The Maryland-type tobacco yield was estimated at 2,000 pounds per acre, unchanged from a year ago. With acreage for harvest estimated at 1,100, the resulting production of 2.2 million pounds will be 27 percent below last year. The Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco yield was estimated at 2,000 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds per acre from last year. With acreage for harvest estimated at 1,300 acres, the resulting production of 2.6 million pounds would be 9 percent below last year. The burley tobacco yield is estimated at 2,200 pounds per acre. With acres for harvest estimated at 5,500, the resulting production would be 12.1 million pounds which is a 250 percent increase from the previous year.

Corn production in the United States is forecast at 11.1 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month, and fractionally above 2005. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from August, and 6.8 bushels from last year. If realized, yield and production would be the second largest of record, behind 2004. Forecast yields are higher than August across the northern Great Plains and western Corn Belt as moderate to heavy precipitation during the month improved soil moisture levels and crop conditions. Expected yields across the eastern Corn Belt are unchanged from the previous month. Farmers expect to harvest 71.8 million acres if corn for grain, down 250,000 acres from August and down 4 percent from 2005.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.09 billion bushels, up 6 percent from the August forecast, and up slightly from the 2005 crop. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 41.8 bushels per acre, up 2.2 bushels from August, but down 1.5 bushels from last year's record high yield. Compared with last month, yields are forecast higher across the Corn Belt and most of the northern and central Great Plains. Near or above normal moisture in those areas during August improved crop conditions. In contrast, yields are down or unchanged from the August forecast across the Gulf Coast States and Atlantic Coast States, with the exception of South Carolina.

Tobacco production is forecast at 743.1 million pounds, up 15 percent from a year ago. Area harvested is estimated at 334,150 acres with an expected average yield of 2,224 pounds per acre.

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